

Phase 3 – site assessment and remediation

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Health Protection Programs

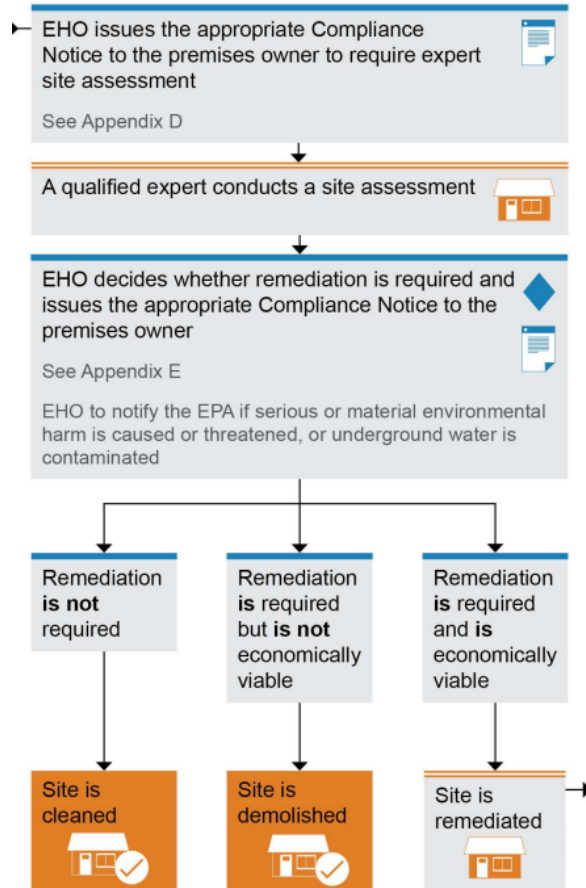


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Expert assessment and remediation



Note: Exclusions may apply in the case of cultivation and extraction of Cannabis oil, psilocybin mushrooms, and other non-chemical synthesis illicit substances manufactured.

[COUNCIL]

Compliance Notice

Issued pursuant to Section 92 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*

NOTICE NUMBER: [INSERT REFERENCE NUMBER]

DATE: [INSERT DATE]

FROM: [INSERT COUNCIL]

[Address line 1]

[Address line 2]

TO: [Name or a description sufficient to identify person]

ADDRESS: [Address line 1]

[Address line 2]

ATTENTION: [Name]

You are the [OWNER] of the premises situated at [ADDRESS], comprised in Certificate of Title Volume [XX] Folio [XX] in the State of South Australia ("the premises").

Pursuant to section 92(1) of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* ("the Act"), the [COUNCIL] ("the Council") may issue a notice for the purpose of-

- securing compliance with a requirement imposed by or under the Act (including a requirement imposed under a regulation or a code of practice under the Act), or
- averting, eliminating or minimising a risk, or a perceived risk to public health.

Practice Guideline for the Management of Clandestine Drug Laboratories under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*

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Health Protection Fact Sheet

A clandestine drug laboratory has been detected on my property – what happens now?

Clandestine drug laboratories (clan labs) are premises or vehicles in which unlawful manufacture or attempted manufacture of controlled drugs such as methamphetamine have occurred, or where chemicals, equipment or waste materials related to unlawful manufacture of a controlled drug have been located.



Clan labs that are detected by police are notified to public health authorities.

The unlawful manufacture of controlled drugs can result in long-term contamination of premises. As this contamination is potentially hazardous to human health, the property owner must ensure premises where a clan lab has been detected is safe before they can be reoccupied.

Why are clan labs a risk to public health?

Clan lab operators use improvised equipment, materials and methods during the drug manufacture process and may illegally dispose of waste products. This can result in significant and widespread chemical contamination throughout a property. Exposure to these chemicals is considered a serious risk to health as many of the chemicals are toxic, flammable and/or corrosive. Short-term exposure to these chemicals can result in nausea, vomiting, headaches and chest tightness, while long-term exposure can result in severe skin irritation, insomnia, irritability, hyperactivity, behavioural changes and adverse cardiovascular effects.

Given the health risks posed by these chemicals, it is important that occupation of premises where a clan lab has been detected is prevented until the nature and extent of the chemical contamination is assessed and any required remediation has been completed.

What happens when a clan lab is detected?

When a clan lab is detected, the police will investigate and seize equipment and other items as evidence to support any legal proceedings. The police then notify the relevant public health authority to ensure any potential public health risks in the property are addressed.

If a clan lab is identified on a property, **do not touch it or attempt to shut it down**. Immediately contact police by telephoning triple zero (000) so that experts who are properly trained in the safe dismantling and handling of equipment and products used in the manufacturing process may be dispatched. Attempts to shut down or dismantle an active clan lab may result in injury or death.

What happens when public health authorities are notified?

A site assessment notice under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* will be issued on the property owner by the relevant public health authority (usually the local council), requiring the property owner to:

Contact the owner and issue the site assessment notice ASAP

- > Regardless of category in most cases
- > Use the notice template
- > Risk to health not general duty
- > Attach SAPOL summary for premises owner and contact details for reporting officer
- > Attach fact sheets for property owner and suitably qualified expert
- > Require assessment of the entire property not just the shed, granny flat etc. where lab/equipment was found
- > Monitor occupancy status
- > Consider action on default

Suitably qualified expert

- > Someone with experience in the fields of environmental engineering, environmental science, environmental health or occupational hygiene and who is in possession of tertiary qualifications in one of these disciplines from a recognised educational institution





Review the site assessment

- > Suitability of assessor
- > How the assessment was undertaken
- > Appropriate follow up actions based on the nature of the risks and intended future use of the premises
- > EPA notification (if required)
- > Investigation levels (ILs) exceeded?
- > Remediation action plan
- > If necessary contact HPP for assistance / advice
- > If unsatisfactory further assessment may be required



Sampling program

- > Rationale provided
- > Detailed sampling records/photographs
- > NIOSH 9111/9106/9109 compliant or equivalent (LC-GC/MS)
- > Composites
- > Presumptive screening
- > Quality control – media, trip and field blanks
- > Methamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), pseudo/ephedrine, iodine, others



Sampling program

- > Minimum five non-porous surface samples inside the building plus outbuildings
- > Sample areas that show evidence of contamination
- > Surfaces used in the drug manufacturing
- > Any room or area inhabited by a child under 16 years of age
- > Avoid recently cleaned areas and behind furniture
- > Ventilation ducts



Sampling program

> Volatile organics

- All rooms: where chemical processes though to have taken place, where chemicals or equipment were stored, where there is evidence of staining any bedroom or play room of a child <16 years.

> Wastewater

- Assess and sample if necessary

> Soil

- Any evidence of contamination, septic bed – minimum two samples from well travelled paths if no evidence of contamination

> Groundwater and surface water

- If applicable refer to National Guidelines

Investigation Levels

APPENDIX 1: Summary of Investigation Levels (ILs) – Assessment of Former Clandestine Lab Sites

Key Chemical	Residential (A)			Recreational (E)	Commercial/Industrial (F)			Environmental #	
	Indoor Criteria		Outdoor	Outdoor	Indoor Criteria		Outdoors	Outdoors	
	Surface (µg/100cm ²)	Air (mg/m ³)	Soil (mg/kg)	Soil (mg/kg)	Surface (µg/100cm ²)	Air (mg/m ³)	Soil (mg/kg)	Soil (mg/kg)	Water (mg/L)
Methamphetamine	0.5	b	5	5	10	b	45	x	x
MDMA	7	b	60	60	130	b	600	x	x
Pseudo/Ephedrine	600	b	6000	6000	10000	b	50000	x	x-
Ammonia	a	0.1	1800	1800	a	0.3	10000	x	0.9 ^{AI**}
Iodine	20	0.0008	2	2	450	0.003	6	4 ^U	x
Bromide	2000	0.0008	2	2	50000	0.003	4	10 ^U	x
Phosphorus	0.07	b	0.6	0.6	2	b	7	x	A ^{IM**}
N-Methylformamide	10	b	120	120	270	b	1200	x	x
Methylamine	a	0.004	70	70	a	0.01	600	x	x
Nitroethane	a	0.4	4400	4400	a	1	20000	x	x
Boron and compounds	1800	b	3000 (N)	6000 (N)	40000	b	15000 (N)	0.5 ^U	0.37 ^{AI} , 5.1 ^{AM}
Mercury (inorganic)	35	b	15 (N)	30 (N)	800	b	75 (N)	1 (NE)	0.0006 ^{AI} , 0.004 ^{AM}
Lithium	46	b	230	230	1000	b	5700	2 ^U	0.014 ^U
Benzaldehyde	1500	0.4	6300	6300	35000	1	35000	0.6 ^U	0.01 ^U
Phosphine	a	0.0004	c	c	a	0.001	c	x	x
Safrole and isosafrole	16	0.0002	1	1	16	0.001	6	0.4 ^U	x
Chloroform	a	0.1	240	240	a	0.4	1400	1.2 ^U , 170 ^F	0.37 ^{AM}
Dichloromethane	a	1	120	120	a	4	3300	4 ^{U,D}	4 ^{AM}
Benzene	a	0.0095 (A)	1 (S)	1 (S)	a	0.0095 (A)	1 (S)	210 ^F	0.95 ^{AI} , 0.5 ^{AM}
Toluene	a	0.4 (A)	130 (S)	130 (S)	a	0.4 (A)	130 (S)	1.4 (S)	0.18 ^{AM}
Ethylbenzene	a	26	50 (S)	50 (S)	a	80	50 (S)	3.1 (S)	0.08 ^F , 0.005 ^{AM}
Xylenes	a	0.9 (A)	25 (S)	25 (S)	a	0.9 (A)	25 (S)	14 (S)	0.2 to 0.35 ^{AM}
TPH									
C6-C9 (aliphatic)**	a	0.8	1800	1800	a	3	4000	130 ^F	x
C10-C14	a	0.2	1000 (S) C10-C36,	1000 (S) C10-C36,	a	0.7	1000 (S) C10-C36,	150 ^F	x
C15+	140	b	90 (N)	180 (N)	3000	b	450 (N)	400 ^F	x
pH	6.5-8.5	b	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	b	6.5-8.5	x	{6 to 9} A ^{**}



Remediation required

- > Issue remediation and validation notice using template provided (remove suitably qualified expert for remediation) - perhaps replace with cause remediation to be undertaken
- > Cleaners should be independent of assessor(s) to avoid conflict of interest
- > Monitor occupancy status
- > Consider action on default



Workshop 2

- > Site assessment and remediation
- > As the investigating EHO you issued the section 92 Site Assessment Notice and you have just received the Site Assessment Report from the property owner. Assess the report and decide what actions you will take.



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